

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1 and 12 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A pedal device mounted on a bracket fixed to a body of an automotive vehicle, and including a pedal arm having an operating portion at a lower end thereof, and a position adjusting device operable to adjust a position of said operating portion in a longitudinal direction of the automotive vehicle where said pedal arm is placed in a non-operated state thereof, said position adjusting device comprising:

a first member having a pair of guides;

a second member disposed movably relative to said first member in an approximately vertical plane approximately parallel to said longitudinal direction, and having a pair of guide pieces which are movable in engagement with said pair of guides, respectively; and

a positioning device operable to establish a desired relative position between said first and second members, by moving said pair of guides and said pair of guide pieces relative to each other, said positioning device permitting said first and second members to maintain said desired relative position after said desired relative position is established,

wherein one of said first and second members has said operating portion and is movable relative to the other of said first and second members, to move said operating portion in said longitudinal direction, and

wherein said pair of guides consist of a pair of straight guides which are formed and positioned such that perpendicular lines at midpoints of said straight guides~~the extension lines of said straight guides~~ intersect each other at an intersecting point, and a first horizontal distance between said intersecting point and a center of said operating portion at its fully

retracted position is shorter than a second horizontal distance between said intersecting point and a center of said operating portion at its fully advanced position,

whereby-such that a vertical position of said operating portion is lowered as said operating portion is moved toward the rear of the vehicle, parallel to said longitudinal direction.

2. (Previously Presented) The pedal device according to claim 1, wherein said pair of straight guides are positioned such that extension lines of said straight guides intersect each other such that an attitude of said operating portion changes and said vertical position of said operating portion is lowered as said operating portion is moved in said rearward direction in relation to the vehicle, parallel to said longitudinal direction as a result of a relative movement of said first and second members with said pair of guide pieces being moved in engagement with said pair of straight guides, respectively.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The pedal device according to claim 2, wherein said second member has said operating portion and is movable relative to said first member, and said positioning device comprises a relative-movement device including a feedscrew disposed on said first member such that said feedscrew is parallel to one of said pair of straight guides and rotatable about an axis thereof, and an internally threaded member connected to one of said guide pieces which engages said one of said pair of straight guides, said internally threaded member being held in engagement with said feedscrew and pivotable relative to said second member about an axis perpendicular to said approximately vertical plane, and wherein said relative-movement device is operable to rotate said feedscrew to move said second member relative to said first member and maintain said desired relative position between said first and second members after a rotary motion of said feedscrew is terminated.

5. (Original) A pedal device according to claim 1, wherein said pedal arm includes said first and second members, and said other of said first and second members which does not have said operating portion is a pivotal arm which is disposed pivotally about a support shaft

supported by said bracket, said pedal arm being pivoted about said support shaft when said pedal arm is operated at said operating portion.

6. (Withdrawn) A pedal device according to claim 5, wherein said pivotal arm is operatively connected to a power transmitting member such that an operating force acting on said operating portion of said pedal arm is transmitted to said power transmitting member, said pedal device further including a lever-ratio changing mechanism interconnected between said pivotal arm and said power transmitting member, said lever-ratio changing mechanism being operable to change a lever ratio of said pedal device with a change in an operating amount of said pedal arm.

7. (Withdrawn) A pedal device according to claim 6, wherein said bracket has a mounting shaft parallel to said support shaft, and said lever-ratio changing mechanism includes (a) a lever member disposed on said bracket pivotally about said mounting shaft and connected to said power transmitting member pivotally about a first connecting shaft parallel to said mounting shaft, and (b) a connecting link connected at one of opposite ends to said lever member pivotally about a second connecting shaft parallel to said mounting shaft, and at the other end to said pivotal arm pivotally about a third connecting shaft parallel to said second connecting shaft, and wherein said operating force is transmitted from said pedal arm to said power transmitting member through said pivotal arm, said connecting link and said lever member.

8. (Withdrawn) A pedal device according to claim 1, wherein said one of said first and second members which has said operating portion includes an adjusting plate operatively connected to said other of said first and second members through said positioning device, and said pedal arm which is connected to said adjusting plate pivotally about a support shaft supported by said adjusting plate, said pedal arm having said operating portion at a lower end portion thereof, and wherein said other of said first and second members consists of said bracket fixed to said body of the vehicle.

9. (Withdrawn) A pedal device according to claim 8, wherein said pedal arm is an accelerator pedal arm, said pedal device further including a sensor operable to convert an operating amount of said accelerator pedal arm into an electric signal.

10. (Previously Presented) The pedal device according to claim 1, wherein said pair of guides are formed and positioned such that an operating surface of said operating portion is gradually inclined while the vertical position of said operating portion is lowered as said operating portion is moved toward the rear of the vehicle, parallel to said longitudinal direction.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A pedal device mounted on a bracket fixed to a body of an automotive vehicle, and including a pedal arm having an operating portion at a lower end thereof, and a position adjusting device operable to adjust a position of said operating portion in a longitudinal direction of the automotive vehicle where said pedal arm is placed in a non-operated state thereof, said position adjusting device comprising:

a first member having a pair of straight guides which are positioned such that extension lines of said straight guides intersect each other;

a second member disposed movably relative to said first member in a vertical plane parallel to said longitudinal direction, and having a pair of guide pieces which are movable in engagement with said pair of guides, respectively; and

a positioning device operable to establish a desired relative position between said first and second members, by moving said pair of guides and said pair of guide pieces relative to each other, said positioning device permitting said first and second members to maintain said desired relative position after said desired relative position is established,

wherein one of said first and second members has said operating portion and is movable relative to the other of said first and second members, to move said operating portion in said longitudinal direction, and

wherein said pair of straight guides are formed and positioned such that the perpendicular lines at midpoints of said straight guides intersect each other at an intersecting

point, and a first horizontal distance between said intersecting point and a center of said operating portion at its fully retracted position is shorter than a second horizontal distance between said intersecting point and a center of said operating portion at its fully advanced position,

whereby~~whose extension lines intersect each other are formed and positioned such that~~  
an operating surface of said operating portion is gradually inclined upwards while a vertical position of said operating portion is lowered as said operating portion is moved toward the rear of the vehicle, parallel to said longitudinal direction.